

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 11591 201406Z

42

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R 200948Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL SUBIC

CDR 13 AF CLARK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11591

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (MANSFIELD, MIKE)

SUBJ: CODEL MANSFIELD

REF: MANILA 11549

1. CODEL MANSFIELD'S VISIT FROM AUG 16-20 PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS PARTICULARLY ON BASES QUESTION WITH US AND PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH VISIT WAS ESSENTIALLY LOW KEY, SECRETARY ROMULO MET PARTY, PRESIDENT HOSTED LUNCH AND BRIEFINGS (REPORTED SEPTEL) AND PRESS PLAYED UP VISIT AS MAJOR STEP IN CONTINUING US-PHILIPPINE CONSULTATIONS ON FUTURE OF US BASES HERE. GOP TOOK ADVANTAGE OF CODEL VISIT TO SPRING LATEST STATEMENT OF PHILIPPINE "GOALS" RE BASES.

2. SENATOR MANSFIELD UNDERTOOK NO PROGRAM ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY (AUGUST 16, 17) ALTHOUGH STAFF VISITED CORREGIDOR 17TH. ON 18TH, SENATOR AND SOME STAFF VISITED SUBIC AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 11591 201406Z

CLARK FOR AERIAL TOURS AND BRIEFINGS. DURING BRIEFINGS,

SENATOR EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN DIEGO GARCIA AND POSSIBLE USE OF U.S. BASES IN PHILIPPINES IN SUPPORT OF U.S. ACTIVITIES IN INDIAN OCEAN. SENATOR INDICATED HE THOUGHT PHILIPPINE DEPENDENCE ON MIDDLE EAST OIL COULD PRECLUDE SUPPORT OPERATIONS FROM U.S. BASES IF INDIAN OCEAN ACTIVITIES WERE REGARDED AS INIMICAL TO MIDDLE EAST INTERESTS OF PHILIPPINES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE MARIANAS, INCLUDING THEIR ABILITY TO SUBSTITUTE FOR U.S. FACILITIES IN PHILIPPINES. SENATOR'S PRINCIPAL INTEREST APPEARED TO BE INFORMATION GATHERING. HE DID NOT SUGGEST THAT POSSIBLE MARIANAS FACILITIES SHOULD REPLACE PHILIPPINE FACILITIES AND ACCEPTED CLARK ASSURANCES THAT FROM AIR FORCE POINT OF VIEW MARIANAS COULD NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR CLARK. SENATOR ALSO ASKED ABOUT GOP ATTITUDES TOWARDS BASES. CLARK PROVIDED SPECIAL BRIEFING TO SENATOR ON ISSUES IT THOUGHT GOP MIGHT RAISE IN BASES NEGOTIATIONS (BRIEFING BEING POUCHED).

3. EMBASSY GAVE SENATOR, MRS. MANSFIELD AND STAFF TWO HOUR COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING TUESDAY MORNING, 19 AUGUST. DURING BRIEFING FOLLOWING ITEMS COMMENTED ON BY CODEL:

A) BASES - (1) STAFF MEMBER NORVILLE JONES INDICATED THAT CONCEPT OF RENT COULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO CONGRESS. HE NOTED MILITARY AID FREQUENTLY JUSTIFIED IN TERMS OF BASE RIGHTS. (IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, FRANK VALEO ENDORSED RENT FOR BASES AS MUCH MORE HONEST METHOD WHICH WOULD SIMPLIFY DETERMINATION OF WHETHER WE WANTED BASES AND UNTANGLE OTHER FORMS OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.)

(2) SENATOR MANSFIELD SAID HE FELT CONGRESS WOULD VAVOR RETENTION OF U.S. BASES HERE. CONGRESS, HE SAID, DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN ASIAN MAINLAND AND ISLAND DEFENSE CHAIN IN PACIFIC OF WHICH PHILIPPINES IS PART. MOREOVER, VIEW QUESTIONABLE FUTURE U.S. BASES IN OKINAWA AND JAPAN, AND U.S. NEED, AS PACIFIC POWER, FOR PERMANENT BASE, PHILIPPINES WOULD HAVE TO BE REGARDED AS BED ROCK INVESTMENT.

(3) SEATO - SENATOR EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN AT POSSIBILITY THAT BILATERAL US/THAI SECURITY RELATIONSHIP THROUGH SEATO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 11591 201406Z

MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENT TO ASEAN. THIS COULD NOT BE DONE, HE SAID.

(4) INDIAN OCEAN - CODEL CONCERNS RE VULNERABILITY OF PHILIPPINES TO ARAB PRESSURES REITERATED.

(B) ECONOMY - (1) TRADE REFORM ACT: SENATOR SAID PHILIPPINES HAD NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT. AMBASSADOR NOTED HE HAD TOLD GOP

DURING CODEL WOLFF VISIT THAT CONGRESS HAD COMPLETED ITS ROLE IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND PROBLEM NOW LIES WITH BUREAUCRACIES.

(2) OIL: SENATOR REQUESTED AND OBTAINED MAP SHOWING ALL OIL CONCESSIONS IN PHILIPPINES. HE ALSO PROVIDED WITH SOURCE BREAK-DOWN OF OIL IMPORTS BY PHILIPPINES. SENATOR NOTED PRESIDENT HAD REFERRED TO OIL DURING DISCUSSIONS ON SPRATLEYS IN JANUARY 1975. AMBASSADOR SAID SPRATLY AREA INCLUDED IN PRC MAPS AS CHINESE TERRITORY. PRESIDENT MARCOS HAD RECENTLY REITERATED TO AMBASSADOR CONCERN AT POSSIBLE VIETNAM USE OF SPRATLYS AGAINST PHILIPPINES.

4. SENATOR'S LUNCH WITH PRESIDENT REPORTED SEPTEL. DURING BRIEFING PRECEDING LUNCH, PRESIDENT TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR TO SAY HE WAS SENDING OVER PAPER OUTLINING SOME OF HIS RESPONSES TO AMBASSADOR'S EARLIER COMMENT ON BASES. PAPER TURNED OUT TO BE GLOSSY, UNATTRIBUTED 52 PAGE MELCHOR THINK-TANK ILLUSTRATED PAMPHLET OUTLINING PHASES ONE AND TWO FOR TAKE-OVER OR SHARED ADMINISTRATION AND CO-PRODUCTIVE USES OF ALL U.S. FACILITIES IN PHILIPPINES. ALTHOUGH SECRETARY MELCHOR TOLD AMBASSADOR HE DID NOT PLAN TO DISTRIBUTE, PAPER HAS NO CLASSIFICATION AND EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT FIRST RUN WAS 1,000. IT CONSEQUENTLY VERY LIKELY TO END UP WITH U.S. CONGRESS AMONG OTHER RECIPIENTS.

5. FOLLOWING LUNCH MALACANANG ISSUED PRESS GUIDANCE. GUIDANCE NOTED PRESIDENT AND SENATOR HAD DISCUSSED BASES AND THAT PRESIDENT HAD "REITERATED INTEREST IN CONSIDERATIONS OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY, END OF EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY, MAINTENANCE OF SECURITY EQUILIBRIUM IN REGION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHILIPPINE CAPABILITY TO PERFORM SECURITY FUNCTIONS NOW BEING CARRIED OUT BY U.S." GUIDANCE ALSO ALLEGED (INCORRECTLY) THAT SENATOR MANSFIELD "SPEAKING ON IMPORTANCE OF PHILIPPINES IN POWER EQUILIBRIUM IN AREA AND ITS VALUE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MANILA 11591 201406Z

AS AN ALLY, TOLD PRESIDENT SENTIMENT IN U.S. CONGRESS IS THAT PHILIPPINES MUST BE PRESERVED AS AN ALLY AND DEFENDED IN CASE OF EXTERNAL ATTACK." SENATOR'S "ASSURANCE" HEADLINED IN PRESS.

6. COMMENT EMBASSY BELIEVES SENATOR'S VISIT VERY USEFUL IN TERMS EXPOSING HIM TO BASES AND TO BOTH U.S. AND PHILIPPINE OFFICIAL THINKING ON BASES. BASE VISIT WAS IN FACT FIRST FOR SENATOR SINCE SERVING AS MARINE IN OLONGAPO IN 1921. ALTHOUGH HEADLINES DISTORT "PRIVATE" CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND SENATOR REPORTED SEPTEL, MISREPRESENTATION DOES NOT NULLIFY GENERAL VALUE OF VISIT.
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